

Alameda Journal

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Newsstand 25 cents

Community Can you take it with you? [C1]

A Closer Look Thanks spring eternal [C1]

A warm coating



Open space petition for Beltline property OK'd for ballot

STAFF REPORTS

Alameda County Registrar of Voters Brad Clark announced that Jean Sweeney's petition to rezone a 22-acre parcel near Marina Village as open space has qualified for the ballot.

Ten percent of Alameda's registered voters — 3,532 — were needed to move the petition forward. The advocates submitted 4,034 signatures; 3,637 were determined to be registered voters in the city.

The parcel in question is commonly known as the Beltline, a former rail yard located south of Marina Village, bound by Atlantic Avenue and Sherman Street on the north and east. The southern boundary is defined by rear property lines on Eagle Avenue. The Beltline narrows at its western end and has a short frontage on Constitution Way.

City Clerk Diane Felsch will bring the petition to the City Council on Nov. 21. The council has three choices: introduce

the ordinance without alteration and adopt it within 10 days, place the matter on the November 2002 general municipal election ballot, or direct staff to provide a report on the effects of the ordinance. The staff would have 30 days to produce the report.

A random check of the petition's signatures completed about Nov. 9 was inconclusive, necessitating a full study of the signatures that was finished on Nov. 14.

Meanwhile, ownership of the property is tied up in court.

Sun Country Developers of Pleasanton made a bid to purchase the property in the summer of 1999.

In October, the city gave notice of its intention to purchase the property based on the 1924 agreement that created the railroad. The railroad sued to prevent the city's bargain purchase, and the city counter-sued, alleging that the railroad intends to break the old contract.

Out with the old